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PROPOSED MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1998-2001

Programme 25. Internal oversight

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25.1 The general orientation of the programme is to attain more effective implementation of programmes and better internal control of the Organization by assisting the Secretary-General in fulfilling his internal oversight responsibilities with respect to staff and other resources of the Organization.

25.2 The mandate for the programme derives from the responsibility of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the United Nations, entrusted to him under Article 97 of the Charter. The mandate specific to his responsibility for internal oversight derives from General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, articles V and VI of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/PPBME Rules/1 (1987)), and relevant provisions of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations (ST/SGB/Financial Rules/1/Rev.3 (1985)).

25.3 The Office of Internal Oversight Services will be responsible for the implementation of this programme. The responsibilities of the Office will extend to the resources and staff of the Organization.

25.4 The work of the Office helps the Organization and Member States ensure compliance of the programmes with resolutions, regulations, rules and policies, monitor programme implementation and evaluate the results achieved, promote economy and efficiency, and prevent and detect waste, abuse, malfeasance and mismanagement.

25.5 In carrying out its work, the overall approach of the Office is aimed at:

(a) Promoting greater effectiveness and efficiency of programme management;

(b) Enhancing management of human and financial resources of the Organization;

(c) Facilitating more transparent assignment of responsibility and accountability;

(d) Protecting the assets of the Organization.

25.6 In the course of its programme implementation, care will be taken to ensure that the Office coordinates its activities with the Board of Auditors of the United Nations, the Panel of External Auditors and the Joint Inspection Unit. The Office will also maintain a close working relationship with other inspection and oversight services in the United Nations system.

Subprogramme 25.1 Central evaluation

25.7 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To facilitate the intergovernmental bodies to assess, as systematically and objectively as possible, the relevance, efficiency,

effectiveness and impact of the activities of programmes in relation to their objectives;

(b) To enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflections, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the main programmes of the Organization by altering their content and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives;

(c) To assist the departments and offices in the Secretariat in implementing approved evaluation recommendations;

(d) To support the evaluation activities of departments and offices.

25.8 The Central Evaluation Unit will be responsible for this subprogramme.

25.9 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to enable the Secretariat and Member States to improve the implementation of activities and programmes of the Organization. It is also expected that programme managers will realize the benefits of self-evaluation and utilize it fully as a management tool.

Subprogramme 25.2 Audit and management consulting

25.10 The subprogramme will seek to guarantee the implementation of programmes and legislative mandates by promoting efficient administrative and financial functioning of the Organization and by preventing waste and mismanagement.

25.11 More specifically, the objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To ascertain compliance by programme managers with the financial and administrative regulations and rules as well as with the approved recommendations of external oversight bodies;

(b) To promote effective discharge by programme managers of their responsibilities and to ensure that programme managers are given necessary methodological support;

(c) To improve the structure of the Organization and its responsiveness to the requirements of programmes and legislative mandates;

(d) To monitor the effectiveness of the systems of internal control of the Organization.

25.12 The Audit and Management Consulting Division will be responsible for this subprogramme.

25.13 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to result in a better level of compliance by programme managers with the relevant rules and regulations of the Organization. The work of the subprogramme will enable the Organization to achieve better value for money in a context of scarce resources.

Subprogramme 25.3 Central monitoring and inspection

25.14 The objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To enhance and strengthen the management of the programmes by ensuring that both programme delivery and output are adequate, timely and in accordance with the mandates, that they address effectively the objectives of the programmes and that resources are used efficiently;

(b) To promote the monitoring and self-evaluation functions by programme managers as an integral part of their management and oversight responsibility. To that end, the subprogramme will also assist programme managers in improving their own monitoring exercise by providing them with instructions and guidelines and by developing performance indicators;

(c) To promote a constructive dialogue between Member States and the Secretariat with a view to fulfilling the mandates and achieving the objectives of the Organization.

25.15 The Central Monitoring and Inspection Unit will be responsible for this subprogramme.

25.16 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to result in more efficient use of programme resources and thereby more effective achievement of programme objectives. By the end of the period covered by the plan, monitoring mechanisms will be firmly established and used as a management tool in each organizational unit.

Subprogramme 25.4 Investigations

25.17 The major objectives of the subprogramme are:

(a) To minimize the occurrence and risk of violations of rules and regulations of the United Nations, mismanagement, misconduct, waste of resources and abuse of authority;

(b) To improve the working environment and facilitate a more effective, efficient and economical way of using the Organization's human and financial resources.

25.18 The Investigations Section will be responsible for implementing this subprogramme.

25.19 Achievement of the above objectives is expected to result in increased accountability of individual staff members and programme managers for areas under their control. The work of the subprogramme will provide a deterrent against potential violations as well as detect those which have already occurred.